

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00487 01 OF 02 211628Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EB-08 IO-13 /078 W
-----211744Z 129513 /47

R 211443Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4529
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0487

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT,IS
SUBJECT: YADIN'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE

REF: TEL AVIV 8131

1. SUMMARY: LEADERS OF YADIN'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE NOW FEEL THAT A SHORTER ELECTION PERIOD WILL WORK TO THEIR ADVANTAGE AS PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR A CHANGE. THE DMC IS NOW SPECULATING ON WINNING "ABOUT 15 SEATS" AND IS NOT SEEKING ANY FURTHER MERGERS. OUR INTERLOCUTOR, DAN TOLKOWSY, WHO REPRESENTS THE CONSERVATIVE WING OF THE PARTY, IS OPPOSED TO STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY AND FAVORS NEGOTIATING "A FORM OF DETENTE" WITH THE ARABS. IN SEEKING THIS DETENTE, HE THINKS THAT ISRAEL SHOULD GO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE SHORT OF GIVING UP "STRATEGIC ASSETS," AND THAT A FORM OF HOME RULE MIGHT EVOLVE ON THE WEST BANK AND IN GAZA. ISRAEL WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE TO MAINTAIN MILITARY CONTROL THERE. TOLKOWSKY BELIEVES THAT PERES HAS A SLIGHT EDGE OVER RABIN IN THE LABOR PARTY CONTEST AT THE MOMENT AND SAID

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00487 01 OF 02 211628Z

THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE RULED OUT AS FAR AS COALITION POSSIBILITIES AFTER THE ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. ONE OF THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT'S CHARTER MEMBERS IS DAN TOLKOWSKY, WHO IS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DISCOUNT INVESTMENT CORPORATION AND A LEADER IN ISRAEL'S BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITY. HE IS ALSO A FORMER COMMANDER

OF THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE AND MAINTAINS CLOSE TIES WITH
PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH ECON COUNSELOR ON JANUARY 21,
TOLKOWSKY SAID THAT THEY WERE ALL VERY MUCH ENCOURAGED
BY THE PROGRESS MADE BY THEIR NEW PARTY. AT FIRST THERE
HAD BEEN CONCERN ABOUT THE EARLY ELECTIONS, BUT THEY NOW
FELT THAT THE SHORTER ELECTION PERIOD WOULD WORK TO
THEIR ADVANTAGE. THEY WERE CONVINCED THAT THE TIME IS
RIGHT IN THAT THE PEOPLE WANT A CHANGE AND ARE LOOKING
FOR NEW FACES AND FRENCH APPROACHES.

4. HE SAID THAT HE IS NOW PARTICIPATING IN THE DRAFTING
OF A PARTY PROGRAM DEALING WITH DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THE
DOCUMENT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED LATE NEXT
WEEK, WILL CONTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTIONS OVER
A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

5. MAIN THRUST OF PROGRAM WILL CALL FOR (A) REDUCED BUT
MORE EFFICIENT ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN ISRAELI LIFE, AND
(B) ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY, INVOLVING
CHANGE IN WORK ATTITUDE, PROPER ROLE OF LABOR UNIONS, ETC.
HE SAID THAT THE PROGRAM WILL NOT CALL FOR RADICAL CHANGE
IN PRESENT MIXED ECONOMY BUT RATHER A SORTING OUT OF
PRIORITIES AND AREAS OF EMPHASIS. FOR EXAMPLE, GOVERNMENT
ENTERPRISE ITSELF WILL NOT BE ATTACKED, BUT THERE WILL BE
A CALL FOR PUBLIC AND HISTADRUT EMPLOYERS TO ACT LIKE
EMPLOYERS RATHER THAN WELFARE AGENCIES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00487 01 OF 02 211628Z

6. HE WAS ASKED IF THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL OUTLOOK
WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT, E.G., CONSERVATIVE
TOLKOWSKY AND LIBERAL AMNON RUBENSTEIN, CAUSED ANY PROBLEMS.
HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, OBSERVING THAT THE INCLUSION
OF A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS WAS NATURAL AND EVEN HEALTHY.
HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE COULD BE SOME PROBLEMS
WHEN THEY GET DOWN TO FINE POINTS IN PARTY POSITIONS,
ESPECIALLY ON THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

7. WHEN ASKED HOW MANY SEATS THE PARTY LEADERS REALLY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00487 02 OF 02 211611Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EB-08 IO-13 /078 W
-----211743Z 129266 /47

R 211443Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4530
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0487

EXPECTED TO WIN IN THE ELECTION, HE HESITATED AND THEN SAID "ABOUT 15." HE THOUGHT THAT THIS NUMBER WOULD BE ENOUGH TO ENABLE THE PRTY TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT IT HAD SET OUT TO DO. HE ADDED IN THIS REGARD THAT HIS PARTY WAS NOT SEEKING ANY FURTHER MERGERS WITH OTHER PARTIES. HE AGREED WITH THE GENERAL ASSUMPTION THAT THIS PARTY WOULD DO SOMEWHAT BETTER IF RABIN HEADED THE LABOR TICKET, THE EXPLANATION BEING THAT SOME DISAPPOINTED PERES SUPPORTERS WOULD TURN TO YADIN IF THEIR MAN LOST.

8. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION, TOLKOWSKY SAID THAT THE PARTY'S POSITION HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMULATED. HOWEVER, HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO EXPRESS HIS PERSONAL VIEWS. (THE IMPLICATION GIVEN WAS THAT HIS VIEWS WERE NOT TOO FAR FROM THOSE EXPECTED TO PREVAIL WITHIN THE PARTY.) HE WAS PERSONALLY VERY MUCH AGAINST STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY. HE THOUGHT IT HAD BEEN A BIG MISTAKE AND HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO HEAR PERES SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF THIS APPROACH AFTER HIS LAST VISIT TO THE U.S. HE SAID THAT PERES, IN FACT, HAD NOT REPEATED THIS LINE IN HIS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00487 02 OF 02 211611Z

MOST RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS. TOLKOWSKY CONTINUED THAT SINCE "FULL PEACE WAS NOT IN THE CARDS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE," HE THOUGHT THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD NEGOTIATING "A FORM OF DETENTE" WITH THE ARABS. HE PREFERRED THIS FORMULATION TO END-OF-BELLIGERENCY; THE MEANINGS WERE CLOSE, HE SAID, BUT NOT QUITE THE SAME. IN SEEKING "DETENTE", ISRAEL SHOULD

GO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE SHORT OF GIVING UP "STRATEGIC ASSETS" WHICH MUST BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS FOR FULL PEACE. THE PROBLEM WITH STEP-BY-STEP AGREEMENTS, HE SAID, WAS THAT ISRAEL GAVE UP STRONG CARDS WITHOUT MOVING CLOSER TO PEACE.

9. WHEN ASKED HOW MUCH HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR "DETENTE", TOLKOWSKY REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD BE A MATTER FOR NEGOTIATION. WHEN ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE WEST BANK, HE SAID THAT HE COULD VISUALIZE "EVOLVING HOME RULE ON THE WEST BANK AND IN GAZA, BUT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT GIVE UP MILITARY CONTROL."

10 TURNING TO THE CONTEST FOR LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP, TOLKOWSKY SAID HE BELIEVED PERES NOW HAS A SLIGHT EDGE. WHILE MOST LABOR PARTY LEADERS ARE PREDICTING THAT RABIN WILL WIN, HE BELIEVES THAT THERE IS AN UNDERCURRENT OF STRENGTH FOR PERES WHICH WILL CARRY HIM OVER THE TOP. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT COALITION POSSIBILITIES AFTER THE ELECTIONS, TOLKOWSKY SAID THAT ISRAELI POLITICS ARE IN A STATE OF FLUX AND NOTHING SHOULD BE RULED OUT. HE DECLINED TO STATE A PREFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE LINK WITH LABOR OR WITH LIKUD. THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT COULD GO EITHER WAY. HE ADDED THAT "IF BEGIN WERE TO STEP DOWN, THE WAY WOULD BE OPEN FOR A PARTNERSHIP WITH LIKUD."

11. COMMENT: TOLKOWSKY IS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF THE MOST CONSERVATIVE AND HAWKISH MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00487 02 OF 02 211611Z

MOVEMENT AND HIS VIEWS CERTAINLY DO NOT REPRESENT A PARTY CONSENSUS. HOWEVER, HE IS INFLUENTIAL AND SEVERAL OTHERS IN THE PARTY ARE BELIEVED TO HOLD SIMILAR VIEWS. THUS THE SHINUI WING OF THE PARTY IS LIKELY TO HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY IN PRESERVING THE PARTY'S SO FAR MODERATE IMAGE.

12. SINCE WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION THAT BEGIN IS EVEN CONSIDERING STEPPING DOWN, TOLKOWSKY'S SUPPOSITION IS PROBABLY JUST WISHFUL THINKING. CERTAINLY TOLKOWSKY AND OTHER HARDLINERS IN HIS PARTY WOULD FEEL MORE AT HOME IN COALITION WITH LIKUD THAN WITH LABOR ON BOTH THE ECONOMIC AND THE TERRITORIAL ISSUES.
DUNNIGAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL PARTIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV00487
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770023-0276
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770128/aaaaaykc.tel
Line Count: 218
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 09c8b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 8131
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3531743
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YADIN'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE
TAGS: PINT, IS, (YADIN, YIGael)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09c8b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009